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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF MALAYSIA

IPF:(1987-91) $ 8 864 000

(MAL/90/010) - National Spatial Planning

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	16 October 1991
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Economic Planning Unit (EPU)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 867 600 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 867 600

Project background

The main thrust of development planning in Malaysia in the last twenty years has been to promote rapid and sustained growth in an environment of social justice and stability. Priority has been given to the eradication of poverty and to ensuring a more balanced development and equitable distribution of wealth among regions and different segments of the population. Although all states in Malaysia have registered improvements in per capita GDP and household income during the same period, the relative position of the poorer states worsened. Thus, while absolute poverty has virtually disappeared in Malaysia, there remain discernible disparities in living standards among different regions of the country.

Malaysia's Second Outline Perspective Plan (1991-2000), elaborated with operational focus in the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995), has emphasized the importance of national spatial planning in the country's development process. Through rapid expansion and orderly distribution of development activities, it should be possible to achieve high growth levels, increased employment and income whilst reducing regional disparities and correcting imbalances between the states, rural and urban areas, and segments of the population. National spatial planning would be able to provide a comprehensive framework to bring this about. To this end, the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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Description of project

The project has two main objectives: (1) assist in the development of a national spatial planning framework through the preparation of technical reports/studies and the provision of advisory and consultancy services; and (2) build the skills and capabilities of the relevant staff from the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and other government ministries/departments on various aspects of national spatial planning through on-the-job training (by working and/or inter-facing with international experts and consultants), participation in local workshops and seminars organized by the project as well as fellowships and study-programmes overseas. Some of the areas to be covered under the first objective are: spatial development analysis, government policy actions and intervention programmes, long-term regional development, sectoral policies, resource availability and utilization, rural/urban dynamics, economic and social infrastructure, growth-zones and critical poverty areas, strategic options for specific states, and monitoring & information systems.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a national spatial planner/CTA for 24 man-months, a resource development economist for 12 man-months, an associate expert - regional planner for 24 man-months, a UNV on information systems for 24 man-months, five short-term consultants (total of 10 work-months) on geographic information, industrial development, transport development, information planning and strategic spatial planning; eight NPPPs (total of 20 work-months) on specific issues of importance to spatial planning; fellowships, study visits and organization of local seminars/workshops; and reporting costs and sundries.

The Government will provide a national project director, 12-16 staffmembers of the EPU, 10-12 counterpart staff from relevant government departments, administrative support personnel, office accommodation, supplies and facilities. In addition, will make a cash contribution of M$ 260,000 for the purchase of two computers and a printer, one photocopying machine and three vehicles.

Financial data

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Personnel	595 800
Training	258 800
Miscellaneous	13 000
Total	867 600

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